

CG Kay – Kastoria Thanksgiving remarks
November 21, 2010

It's my pleasure to be here with you today and to share your Thanksgiving meal.

When most Americans think about the Thanksgiving holiday, there are three things that generally come to mind. The first is the coming together of family and friends – which we are celebrating here today. The second is the fantastic, home cooked dinner everyone shares – usually featuring a roasted, stuffed turkey, as we will enjoy shortly. And the third is the football game everyone will watch together afterwards – my husband and I will be watching the Green Bay Packers play the Minnesota Vikings tonight, and I understand of number of you will keep the tradition by watching the PAOK game.

What I would like to focus on today, however, is the essence of our Thanksgiving tradition. We remember the first Thanksgiving as a feast held by the entire community of Plymouth in 1621 to celebrate the Colony's first harvest. It was a celebration of determination, of perseverance, and ultimately of success following a year of grave hardship and much loss.

The first Thanksgiving feast had another very important message, as well. For the colonists – who faced the daily challenges and difficult living conditions of life on the frontier, and who no doubt thought often and longingly of the comforts they had left behind – it was a time to honor and be grateful for what they had and for the community they had built with their own hands.

A lot has happened since we came together last year to share a Thanksgiving meal. The past twelve months have been difficult ones for Greeks and Americans alike. However, I know that we all have the energy, and the determination, and the heart to weather this crisis and emerge from it stronger and more successful than ever.

As we sit together in fellowship today and share this lovely meal, let us all take a moment to reflect on and give thanks for the many things that enrich our lives and bring us joy. Let us also drink a toast to the hard work and perseverance that will bring success in the year ahead.

Thank you for your attention, and Kalli Orexi.